

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claim 24 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein.

Please amend Claims 3 and 23 as follows.

Claims 1 and 2. (Cancelled).

3. (Currently Amended) A manipulator comprising:

first and second contact portions opposing each other and facing a manipulation target object;

first openings at said first contact portion,

second openings at said second contact portion, and

fluid control means for performing an operation of feeding the manipulation target object by ejecting a first fluid at a first flow velocity from each of at least one of the first and second openings at a front side of the manipulation target object in a feeding direction and ejecting a second fluid at a second flow velocity slower than the first flow velocity from at least one of the first and second openings at a rear side of the manipulation target object in the feeding direction ~~and at least one of the second openings behind the target object so that the ejected fluids collide to generate a flow which pushes the manipulation target object in a forward direction.~~

Claims 4-22. (Cancelled).

23. (Currently Amended) A manipulator comprising:

first and second contact portions opposing each other and facing a manipulation target object:

first openings at said first contact portion,

second openings at said second contact portion, and

fluid control means for controlling an attitude of the manipulation target object by ejecting a fluid from at least one of the first openings and drawing a fluid from at least one of the second openings at a right side of a center of gravity of the manipulation target object and ejecting a fluid from at least one of the second openings and drawing a fluid from at least one of the first openings at a left side of the center of gravity of the manipulation target object so as to generate a couple force around the center of gravity of the manipulation target object.

Claim 24. (Cancelled).